

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A pneumatic tire comprising a tread with shoulders, a belt structure located below the tread, and a carcass with two sidewalls, two inextensible annular beads, and a radial ply structure, the tire characterized by:
 - the shoulders each having a continuous curving radially outer profile;
 - the belt structure comprising an annular layer of parallel cords directly adjacent to the radial ply structure, the annular layer having a pair of opposing annular edges and a continuous radius curve profile;
 - an annular reinforcing strip layer located radially inward of each annular layer edge, each strip layer having a width of not greater than 30mm, and extending axially outward of the belt structure by a distance of not more than 10 mm.
2. The tire of claim 1 wherein the annular reinforcing strip layer is comprised of cords, the cord material selected from a group of material consisting of nylon, rayon, polyester, aramid, metal, and glass.
3. The tire of claim 1 wherein the annular reinforcing strip layer is comprised of cords inclined at an angle of 0° to 5° relative to a centerline of the tire.
4. The tire of claim 1 wherein the belt structure further includes an overlay ply located radially outward of the annular layer of parallel cords, the overlay having a width greater than the annular layer of parallel cords.
5. The tire of claim 4 wherein the annular reinforcing strip layer is formed of the same cords as the overlay ply.
6. The tire of claim 4 wherein the annular reinforcing strip layer is formed of cords dissimilar from the cords of the overlay ply.
7. The tire of claim 1, the tire further comprising runflat rubber inserts in the sidewalls.

8. The tire of claim 1, wherein the annular reinforcing strip layer has a width of 20 mm.
9. The tire of claim 1, wherein the annular reinforcing strip layer has a width of 15 mm.
10. A pneumatic runflat tire, the tire comprising a tread with shoulders, a belt structure located below the tread, and a carcass with a radial ply structure, two sidewalls, at least one rubber insert axially inward of the radial ply structure in each sidewall, and two inextensible annular beads, the tire characterized by:
 - the shoulders each having a continuous curving radially outer profile;
 - the belt structure comprising an annular layer of parallel cords directly adjacent to the radial ply structure, the annular layer having a pair of opposing annular edges and a continuous radius curve profile;
 - an annular reinforcing strip layer located radially inward of each annular layer edge, each strip having a width of not greater than 30mm, and extending axially outward of the belt structure by a distance of not more than 10mm of the width of the strip.
11. The tire of claim 10 wherein the annular reinforcing strip layer is comprised of cords inclined at an angle of 0° to 5° relative to a centerline of a tire.
12. The tire of claim 10 wherein the belt structure further includes an overlay ply located radially outward of the annular layer of parallel cords, the overlay having a width greater than the annular layer of parallel cords.
13. The tire of claim 12 wherein the annular reinforcing strip layer is formed of the same cords as the overlay ply.
14. The tire of claim 10 wherein the annular reinforcing strip layer has a width of 20 mm.

15. The tire of claim 10 wherein the annular reinforcing strip layer has a width of 15 mm.